

## **Meeting Coventry Fire, Anthony District**

**Wednesday October 8, 2014**

**Board members in attendance Jim Beckman-Chair, Louis Cote-Co-Chair, Peter Pankowicz, John D'Onofrio, and John Botello. Also in attendance Chief Labbadia, Deputy Chief Robert Warren, and Arthur Capaldi-legal counsel.**

**Meeting called to order at 7:00 P.M.**

### **AGENDA**

**1) Emergency evacuation procedures**

**2) Roll call**

**3) Approval of the minutes from the meeting held on September 10, 2014. John D'Onofrio made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Peter Pankowicz. All in favor, motion carries.**

**4) Chair report: Jim Beckman said that he has nothing and there have been no complaints.**

**5) Chief report: Chief Labbadia stated that the Health and Safety report test came back positive for mold. The Chief stated that it is nit the dangerous black mold that it is everyday common mold and it is throughout the entire building and is especially bad in the basement. The Chief said that it would need to be addressed at some point. The Chief said there is nothing to worry about but thinks another more thorough test should be done. The Chief thinks we will have to budget the money for next year to have it re-mediated. John Botello**

stated that mold grows and that it will continue to get worse. John Botello said that Warwick had an issue with mold and it needed to be cleaned up. The Chief said it is common mold and not dangerous. John Botello asked about getting a new test done and the Chief said that the Union paid to have the first test done. John D'Onofrio asked where the mold is located and the Chief stated everywhere. John D'Onofrio asked what we were going to have to do to clean it up and the Chief answered bleach and water. Peter Pankowicz asked if the mold was caused by the ventilation system in the basement. The Chief said that they can't tie into the sewer yet because the pitch of the pipes in the basement is not right and needs to be corrected. The Chief said they were going to have to put in a drop box but that would add an extra cost. The tie in would be temporary until a solution can be found then it would be permanent. John D'Onofrio asked if there was a problem with the back flow valve. The Chief said it would be built into the system. The Chief said he would be talking to Mr. Rose about the situation and that the Town is helping with plans and we will have to do whatever they want us to do. The Chief said the station was built in 1925 and the floor drains are no longer acceptable and they need to be diverted. The Chief said a separation system may be necessary but everything is up in the air at this point and the cost is unknown. The Chief said the basement needs to be upgraded because they can't repair the system anymore and needs to be tied in to the sewer. The Chief said the Board needs to come up with a job description and to decide where they will advertise for the tax collector position. The Chief stated that he wants to do the interviews

and have a say in who gets the position. John Botello said we should advertise on the DLT website. John D'Onofrio recommended Monster Jobs. John Botello also suggested Indeed also. The Chief said he ,received 4 resumes already. John D'Onofrio said it would be a good to post the job in the same places that they post the meetings. Louis Cote suggested the Reminder. The Chief said that the Board also needs to renew Arthur Capaldi contract because he is currently working without one. The Chief passed out a copy of Arthur Capaldi's contract to the Board members for them to review. John D'Onofrio asked the Chief when he planned on working on the new budget. The Chief said that he wants to have budget workshops the first and second Tuesdays in November so that it will be ready to present to the tax payers in December at the annual meeting. John D'Onofrio asked why Tuesday's and the chief said so that in case we need to meet on the Wednesdays also. John D'Onofrio stated that he wants to see the bigger line items broken down better especially the salaries. John D'Onofrio said anything over  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a million dollars should be broken down and explained in greater detail. The Chief said the salaries come out to be almost \$100,000.00 per guy with benefits and overtime. The Chief said that he uses spreadsheets for longevity and puts it into line items under personnel. John D'Onofrio asked how many rescue and fire calls we respond to in a year and the Chief said approximately 2,600. Louis Cote made a motion to accept the Chief's report, seconded by Peter Pankowicz. All in favor, motion carries.

6) Tax collector report: The tax office report was prepared and read

by Jeanne Lukowicz. Taxes collected to date \$1,879,921.65. Total interest to date \$69,966.80. Total tax and interest \$1,949,888.45. Total legal costs collected \$6,496.54. Total monies collected \$2,012,384.99.

The balance of back taxes owed from 2010 and prior is \$3,853.25 we have collected \$621.60 leaving a balance of \$3,231.65. Back taxes owed from 2011 is \$5,066.98, we have collected \$3,766.80 with a balance of \$1,300.15. Back taxes owed from 2012 is \$51,828.68 we have collected \$46,636.57 leaving a balance of \$5,192.11. Back taxes owed from 2013 is \$377,483.61 we have collected \$283,840.32 leaving a balance of \$93,643.29. Taxes owed from 2014 is \$2,173,665.88 we have collected \$1,545,056.36 leaving a balance of \$628,599.42. We have collected 71% of 2014 taxes. We have collected 83% of back taxes. The Chief added that we are usually at \$300,000.00 in uncollectables. Jean Lukowicz said that we were a little behind this year compared to this time last year but there is still a lot more coming in and there are more bills going out but some people just ignore the letters. Jean Lukowicz said that they are preparing for the next tax sale and there are already 35 people that have been sent to Arthur Capaldi's office and the second notices are being sent out and some people are coming in to pay and some people are just getting angry. John D'Onofrio asked if there was a tax sale coming up and Jeanne Lukowicz said yes but probably not before the end of the year. Arthur Capaldi said that more than likely there will not be a tax sale until next year. Arthur Capaldi explained that there is a certain protocol that needs to be followed before sending people to tax sale. Arthur Capaldi said there are notices that people have to be a full year

behind then notices go out and they have 90 days to pay then if not paid letters go out for the second time after 40 days then 30 and then 20 days. Louis Cote made a motion to accept the tax office report as read, seconded by John D'Onofrio. All in favor, motion carries.

7) Treasures report: The treasurers report was prepared and read by Judith Hetherman. The checking account balance as of September 30, 2014 was \$76,753.89. The reserve CD is \$59,640.39. Outstanding liabilities is \$100,763.76 and the balance on the LOC is \$459,896.44. There is \$75,000.00 more outstanding since September 30 and the checking account is down \$151,436.01 since September 30 also. Total money collected is \$2,163,557.14 operational expenses are \$2,272,003.64 which leaves us a negative balance of \$108,446.50. John D'Onofrio questioned the amount of the rescue recovery line item and Judith said it was listed under a different line item last year and would be changed when this years budget is made. Judith stated that Blue Cross and Delta Dental were going out this week. Jim Beckman asked why there is a \$75,000.00 increase in the LOC and Judith said that it was compared to last year at this time and we did not have enough money to pay the bills or payroll so it had to come from the LOC. Jim Beckman commented on the fact that payroll was short again. Judith Hetherman said that the quarter ends October 31st. Jim Beckman said that the pension is due on October 15th. Judith Hetherman said the money would be and that her report was as of September 30th. John D'Onofrio asked if the limit on the LOC was still \$500,000.00 and Judith Hetherman said yeas. John D'Onofrio asked if we were going to be good until next year and

Judith said we should be until then. Louis Cote made a motion to accept the treasures report as read, seconded by Peter Pankowicz. All in favor, motion carries.

8) Old business: None

9) New Business: Arthur Capaldi informed the Board that the CFD was being sued along with all the other fire districts in the State Of Rhode Island by the AFFLOC 3372. We are being sued along with Governor Chaffe, Gina Raimondo stating that changes made by the Board are in violation of the their contract. Mark DeCisco is representing 21 cities and towns in this lawsuit along with several fire districts. Arthur Capaldi said that he would recommend to the Board to join in with the other towns and fire districts to share the cost of the attorney. Arthur Capaldi the lawyers make between \$150.00 and \$200.00 an hour and if we join the others that cost could be divided and save our district some money. Arthur Capaldi stated that the Board could not vote on this issue tonight because it is not on the agenda. Arthur Capaldi said that he checked with Central Coventry to see if they were going to join the other cities and towns in this lawsuit and has not heard back either way. Peter Pankowicz agrees with Arthur Capaldi's Recommendation. John D'Onofrio made a motion to allow Arthur Capaldi to follow up the lawyers, seconded by Jim Beckman. All in favor, motion carries. Jim Beckman said that Arthur would get the information and bring it back to himself and the Chief and they would make a recommendation to the rest of the Board. Jim Beckman asked if Arthur Capaldi wanted to discuss his contract in an open session or in Executive session. Arthur Capaldi said he would

**prefer Executive session.**

**10) Executive Session: Jim Beckman stated that the Executive Session for tonight's meeting will be waived.**

**11) Adjournment: John D'Onofrio made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by John Botello. The meeting is adjourned at 7:30 P.M.**

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Perry**